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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your kind attention, a letter dated 13 October 1995 from H.E. Sayed Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, in response to the letter dated 14 September 1995 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

I kindly request you to bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council and to circulate it as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ali Mohamed Osman YASSIN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 13 October 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 14 September 1995 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia insinuating dismaying accusations and malicious verdicts against the Sudan.

It is evident that the letter resorted to repeated allegations that have no truthful basis, but unjustly accused the Sudan of instigating violence, thus unjustifiably implicating the Sudan, in absentia.

In view of the above, I am duty-bound to bring to your attention the following facts:

1. The Sudan categorically denies any direct or indirect involvement or connivance in a plot in the assassination attempt. The Sudan, immediately after the incident, condemned the attempt by a clear announcement of President Al-Bashir at a press conference in Addis Ababa. Condemnation of the attempt was reiterated by the Foreign Minister, H.E. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, when he met with the Egyptian Foreign Minister in Addis Ababa on 25 June, as well as on a number of subsequent occasions.

2. The Government of the Sudan has reaffirmed, as well, that the suspects are not in Sudanese territory and that the Sudan has never allowed its territory to be used as a safe-haven for criminals committing terrorist acts. Moreover, when the Ethiopian allegations were brought to the attention of the Sudan 32 days after the incident on 27 July, the Government of the Sudan duly took all the necessary steps to investigate the matter and has, as well, displayed and expressed every willingness to cooperate in the matter.

3. The Government of the Sudan confirmed its commitment under the extradition agreement signed by the Sudan and Ethiopia in 1964, which was directly implemented in good faith during the highjacking of the Ethiopian aircraft that took place a few months ago in Kordufan State.

4. With regard to the suspects mentioned in the incident, the Sudanese authorities concerned observed that the Ethiopian Government was not cooperative as it failed to provide any information or evidence pertaining to the dates and means of entry of suspects into the Sudan. Nevertheless, the Government of the Sudan has thoroughly conducted an investigation but did not receive sufficient evidence to prove the presence of the aforementioned suspects within the Sudanese territory.

5. The Government of the Sudan has officially asked the Ethiopian Government to provide any additional information that could be helpful in the search for the culprits and suspects, as well as the cooperation of the authorities concerned in both countries. Furthermore, the Government of the Sudan requested bilateral and joint efforts of the authorities concerned in both countries on this matter.

6. The Government of the Sudan, while awaiting the response of the Ethiopian Government to its above-mentioned request and proposal, was surprised by the fact that the issue was brought before the Central Organ of the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Mechanism of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) without being inscribed officially on the agenda of the meeting.

7. The Government of the Sudan is questioning the basis upon which the matter was brought before the Mechanism since there was no conflict to be referred thereto in the first place, while the Government of the Sudan declared its commitment to the extradition agreement and disposed its organs for full cooperation.

8. Concerning the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the Central Organ, the following serious legal and procedural irregularities occurred:

(a) The item was not originally included in the agenda as stipulated in rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, as adopted in paragraph 20 of the Cairo Declaration;

(b) The item was included and discussed in the said Meeting without the consent or notification of the Sudan, contrary to the provision of paragraph 14 of the Cairo Declaration.

The Sudan re-emphasizes its condemnation of all forms of terrorism and reaffirms that its land would never be used as an asylum for terrorists and/or criminals fleeing from justice.

Based on the foregoing, the Sudan, while renewing its condemnation of the incident, and its rejection of all forms and manifestation of terrorism and political violence, totally rejects all the allegations referred to in the Ethiopian Foreign Minister's note to you.

The Sudan being fully committed to the prevalence of peace, stability and security in the region and Africa at large, renews its assurances that it will cooperate with all the parties concerned in this matter.

(Signed) Ali Osman Mohamed TAHA
Minister for Foreign Affairs